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Statement By Ralph Mesite, Villa Capri  
**To Oppose Bill 6434 – Deposits At Banquet Facilities**  
General Law Committee – February 24, 2009

To Whom it may concern,

I almost fell off my chair when I read this Bill in question. In the Banquet business deposits are Approx. 20-25% of our cash flow. Without these deposits to use we COULD NOT be in business. Our deposit, for Example, for Weddings could run a couple of thousand of dollars. A lot of these deposits are appropriated to working staff, cost to organize, budgeting, buying power, and the cost of doing business. We have a policy of the receiving the initial first deposit upon booking the event. In the contract it will be stated when the second deposit is due. All these deposits are already allocated. To Hold these deposits until final payment is unheard of in our field. We use this money as I stated above as our only Cash Flow besides full payment.

I do not know what I will do if this Bill Passes. There are other Bills that I spoke against (ex. the Bill For a 30% Additional Corporate tax surcharge). Just the addition of these two Bills will force me to close my doors.

I understand some business caused this Bill to surface. We should not be punished for other wrong doing.

We use to own the Yankee Silversmith Inn, Wallingford, Conn. We had a fire and severe water damage, June 2007 . May 2008 we had to make one of biggest decisions of our life; we closed because the damage was unrepairable. Doing Business in Wallingford for almost a lifetime, our thoughts were on our Staff (60) and our customers. We placed many staff in other restaurants. **ALL the GIFT CERTIFICATES and DEPOSITS were fully refunded. We did this for our good name.**

My Family and I have opened the Villa Capri in 1960. Next year will be our 50th year. If this Bill passes we will probably not make it. If we had to close we would loose 25-60 employees plus 72 Plus Purveyors, not to mention the support we give to the community. Please do not pass this Bill.

During these difficult times closing businesses will be detrimental for employment and Tax Revenue. We are all struggling and to cut off cash flow would have an Impact statewide.

Thank you for your time.